

*IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH
LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS
DECEMBER 10, 2017*

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH



144 East Merrimack Street
Lowell, Massachusetts 01852

Rectory: 3 Fayette Street
Tel: 978-458-1474 ✦ Fax: 978-446-0790
Office Hours: 8:00 to 3:00, Mon.-Thurs. 8 to 12 Noon-Fri.

Pastoral Staff

Rev. Nicholas A. Sannella, Pastor

Rev. Kenneth Healey, SM, Parochial Vicar
Rev. Raju Muringayil, O. Praem, Assisting Priest
Bro. James Lucas, OMI, Ministry to the Sick
Deacon Stephen M. Papik
Sister Irene Martineau, SASV, Secretary & Bulletin Editor
Ms. Claire Couillard
Pastoral Associate
Director of Religious Education Gr. 1-10

Catherine Fiorino, School Principal
School Tel: 978-454-5339
School Fax: 978-454-6593



Sacraments

Baptism – On an individual basis by appointment.
Please contact the Rectory Office.

Reconciliation – By appointment

Matrimony – Arrangements must be made at least six months in advance.

Ministry to the Sick – Please inform the Staff about anyone confined in your home or in a Nursing Home. Communion is brought regularly to the homebound.



Bulletin Deadline: Friday at Noon

Parish Meetings

St. Vincent de Paul: 7:00 p.m. Monday in Rectory

Adult Choir: 2:00 p.m. Tuesday in Church

Religious Education: Sundays, bi-monthly from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon at Immaculate Conception School

Mass Schedule

Weekends:

Saturday 4:00 p.m.
Sunday 7:30 a.m.
9:00 a.m. Family Mass
11:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Weekdays:

Mon. - Fri. 7:30 a.m. (Rectory Chapel)
Saturday 9:00 a.m. (Rectory Chapel)
Mon. – Fri. 12:00 NN (SMMC Chapel)
Wednesday 7:00 p.m. Mass and Prayer Group
(Rectory Chapel)

Holydays – As announced

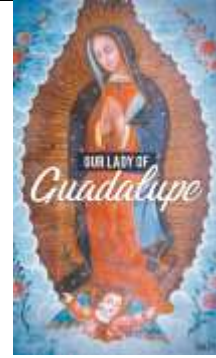
Adoration and Holy Hour

First Wednesday of each month 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
Divine Mercy Chaplet 3:00 p.m.
Rosary 6:00 p.m. followed by Benediction and Mass

Parish Membership

All new families are welcome to the parish and are encouraged to become actively involved. New parishioners should register at the Rectory as soon as possible.

Mass Intentions



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SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

Sometimes you have something to share with people that causes you to well up inside with excitement to the point of going crazy.

A pregnancy test, a pay raise, a college acceptance, and wedding engagement are all examples of moments in life when we might be bursting at the seams to tell somebody the good news.

When we finally get the chance to tell somebody, joy just seems to flow through us with ease.

We literally want the entire world to share in our jubilation.

When was the last time you shared with a friend or loved one how much your faith in Jesus means to you?

You don't feel the same motivation to share?

Are you not overwhelmed

with a desire to spread the good news?

Don't feel bad. You are not alone.

As Christians, we often fail to grasp the powerful implications of being a disciple of Jesus Christ.

We can become complacent and lose sight of what matters the most.

That is when sharing with others about our faith seems uncomfortable.

Faith is a gift.

As everyday stewards we are called to share with others what God has given us.

Advent is a great time to grow in our faith and love of the Lord.

The more we cultivate our faith and the closer we draw to him, the more we will want to share about him.

We might not have the impact of John the Baptist in the course of human history, but our proclamation of the Gospel to others might be the gift that changes their history.

-Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

SATURDAY December 9, 2017

9:00 AM Eric Paul Dube, Month's Mind M.

4:00 PM Frederick Gavriel, Healing Mass

SUNDAY December 10 *Second Sunday of Advent*

7:30 AM Names of Deceased on All Souls
Envelopes

9:00 AM Pyne and Sullivan Families

11:30 AM Laurenco M. Valadao, Ann.

Juvenalia V. Meneses, Ann.

5:00 PM William and Monica Liston

MONDAY December 11, 2017 *St. Damasus I, Pope*

7:30 AM

TUESDAY December 12, 2017 *OUR LADY OF*

GUADALUPE

7:30 AM Fr. Francis Ouellette, 8th Ann.

WEDNESDAY December 13 *St. Lucy, Virgin/Martyr*

7:30 AM

THURSDAY December 14 *St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church*

7:30 AM John/Mary O'Donnell, 20th Ann.

12:00 NN

FRIDAY December 15

7:30 AM

12:00 NN

SATURDAY December 16, 2017

9:00 AM

4:00 PM The Kirwin/Sweeney Families

SUNDAY December 17 *Third Sunday of Advent*

7:30 AM Names of Deceased on All Souls
Envelopes

9:00 AM Catherine, John, Louise Gleason

11:30 AM Paul Conlon Cassidy, 1st Ann.

5:00 PM Gertrude S. Shea, 1st Anniversary

November 25-26, 2017

Weekly Collection: \$5,780.00

Building Fund: \$3,529.00



School News

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL

218 E. Merrimack St.
Lowell, MA 01852
978-454-5339 (Phone)
978-454-6293 (Fax)
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DECEMBER SCHEDULE

December 11, Monday
CHRISTMAS CONCERT
Grades 3-6 in cafeteria
at 6 PM

Students should wear
Christmas colored clothing.

December 13, Wednesday
Advent Prayer Service 7:45 AM

December 14, Thursday
Banking Day
Mrs. Amanda's Dance Recital
at 6 PM

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IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHRISTMAS FAIR
SUNDAY - DECEMBER 3, 2017 -8 am to 1 pm
More details to come next weekend.

TOY DONATIONS

We are looking for toy donations for our
CHRISTMAS FAIR.

Anything you can do would be appreciated.
All donations should be brought into the
School office by Friday, December 1st
or the school cafeteria no later
than Saturday, December 2nd
between 9 am and 1 pm

Thank you in advance for your generosity.



Immaculate Conception Church
Religious Education Calendar
2017-2018

Sunday Mornings 10:00-12 Noon at
Immaculate Conception School

December 10 Class #7
December 17 Class #8 MERRY CHRISTMAS

*****Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
Friday, December 22nd 4:00 pm Upper Church
*****December 24th Christmas Eve 4:00 pm
Pageant Mass Upper Church

PLEASE NOTE THAT THESE ARE THE
SCHEDULED DATES FOR THE YEAR.
The * indicates classes that will be held two Sundays
in a row due to vacations and holidays.
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MASSES WILL BE CELEBRATED
AT 7:30 AM
on the 10th and 17th of the month
of December
for all those whose names were written
on the All Souls envelopes on November 2nd.

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**PLEASE PRAY FOR ALL
OUR ARMED FORCES**

- Lance CPL James Bakanosky U.S. Marines AFGHANISTAN
- Sgt. James R. Boudreau U.S. Army Newport, RI
- Lance CPL Michael P Crowley U.S. Marines-AFGHANISTAN
- Corp. James Farley U.S. Marines Special Forces Mideast
- Gunnery Sgt. Michael G. Hill U.S. Marines Fuji, Japan
- 1st Lt. Jeremy LaBranche U.S. Army...Fort Carson, CO
- SPC Pieter Lobscher U.S. Army AFGHANISTAN
- AST 3 Michael Linehan U.S. Coast Guard
- A/C Emily McPhillips Air Force
- Captain Ryan McKinley.....Air Force MIDDLE EAST
- Master Sgt. Nicholas Owens USAF MacDill AFB FL
- Staff Sgt. John J. Rogers U.S. Army Fort Bliss, TX*-

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ADVENT GIVING TREE FOR BIRTHRIGHT

Every year our parish sponsors an Advent Giving Tree for Birthright

It is heartwarming to see the generosity of our parishioners who contribute to this worthy cause.

Your participation again this year will help
The most vulnerable in our society.

New Baby Items are what we are looking for
To donate. Thank you in advance for your unselfishness.

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SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, December 17, 2017 at 2:00 PM
St. Lucy Church, 254 Merrimack St., Methuen, MA
Gregory Norbet, formerly of Weston Priory,
A respect spiritual leader, compose, singer and
Retreat director,

Some of his many compositions include
“Hosea” (Come Back to Me) and “Wherever You Go”
As well as new settings for Morning/Evening Prayer.
Come join us as we begin a year of celebration for our
60th Anniversary as a Parish Faith Community!
For more info (978) 683-1193 Ext. 29



Adult Choir Practices
Tuesday evening 7:45 PM
Duration of practice: 45 minutes
For the Saturday 4 PM and/or Sunday 9 AM
All are invited and welcomed.

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Thanks to the Women’s Guild our annual
January Calendar Raffle 2018 will be offered to you
after each Mass this month.

So, if you did not receive any in the mail
please continue to support us by buying some then.

We sent out a mailing, but I was informed
that some envelopes contained only 6
when they should have had 12 for the parishioners,
you can purchase them at the rectory from

Monday through Thursday 7 to 3 PM
Friday 7 to 12 Noon,
as well as after each Mass

Thank you again for your continued support,
you will be happy to watch the elevator rise soon.

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REMINDER

Sunday, December 17, 2017
7 PM TREE LIGHTING
150th ANNIVERSARY KICK-OFF
in the front of our church
followed by
light refreshments
in the Lower Church

SAN DAMIANO COMMUNITY

**Come and Share in Contemplative Eucharist
At San Damiano House of Prayer, Lowell,
during the Advent season:
Be Still and Know that I am God.**

You are invited to join us as we pray the liturgy
contemplatively with fewer words,
leaving more space for silence and stillness.
Together we will celebrate our waiting for God
to be born in our midst as we open our hearts
to the deep truth that God is already in our midst.

WHEN: Wed. Dec. 6, 13, and 20th @ 7 PM

PLACE: 333 Pawtucket St. Lowell

PRESIDER: Fr. Noman Comtois, OMI

OFFERING: Free will offering

CONTACT: Sr. Linda Greenwood, OSF
978-441-0988

lgosf@netzero.net

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MEN OF ST. JOSEPH

**The Men of St. Joseph
Immaculate in Collaborative
meet on the fourth Saturday of every month.
Each monthly meeting includes prayer,
faith-building fellowship, and food.**

SAVE THE DATE

December 30, 2017

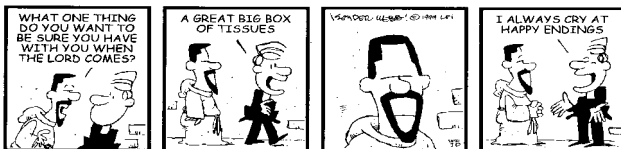
beginning with the Rosary -

7:30 AM to 9:30 AM

in Immaculate Conception's Upper Church

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2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



150th

Celebration

Immaculate Conception Parish

HOW IT ALL BEGAN

**HIGHLIGHTS OF CHURCH BUILDING AND
SPECIAL BLESSING CEREMONIES**

Continuation

- 1878 The tower atop the church was constructed. The body of St. Verecunda was presented to the parish, with the ArchBishop presiding over the celebration honoring the presentation of the relics to the church on October 24.
- 1883 Blessing of the church bell held in the upper church, with the homily given by Bishop Healy of Portland, Maine.
- 1888 Magnificent marble altar added to the church, replacing the wooden one.
- 1889 Rectory constructed.
- 1892 Large lot on East Merrimack Street landscaped as "Columbus Park".
- 1893 Stone statue of Mary, 8 ft. in height, weighing 1900 lbs, was hoisted into the niche near the top of the gable in the façade, at a ceremony on October 2.
- 1910 Church closed for extensive repairs to upper and lower church. The trusses and columns are replaced at this time.
- 1911 Church re-opened on October 29, the repairs having been completed.
- 1915 Ironwork fence added to church grounds.
- 1922 Golden Jubilee of Immaculate Conception celebrated.

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT WEEK.